

HOUSE No. 2678

By Ms. Khan of Newton, petition of Kay Khan and Christine E. Canavan for legislation to establish a nursing advisory board within the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT CREATING A NURSING ADVISORY BOARD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The General Court hereby finds that there exists a
2 nursing shortage in the Commonwealth and that the shortage of
3 qualified nurses will increase in the near future. The General
4 Court further finds that the Commonwealth shall provide a forum
5 for long-range planning and policy development among nursing
6 leaders. This forum will exist to ensure that the Commonwealth
7 meets the nursing and healthcare needs of its citizens.

1 SECTION 2. Definitions.

2 Chapter 6A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000 Offi-
3 cial Edition, is hereby amended by inserting, after section 16D,
4 the following new section:—

5 Section 16E.

6 (a) The following terms, as used in this section, shall have the
7 following meanings:—

8 (i) “Acute care” — healthcare provided in a hospital setting.

9 (ii) “Community-based care” — healthcare provided in a home,
10 occupational, or ambulatory setting.

11 (iii) “Long-term institutional care” — geriatric services and
12 healthcare provided in a nursing home setting.

13 (b) The nursing advisory board, hereinafter referred to as the
14 advisory board, is hereby established within, but not subject to the
15 control of, the executive office of health and human services.
16 Said advisory board shall consist of eight members. The Massa-
17 chusetts Center for Nursing (MCN) Steering Committee shall

18 solicit and collect nominations for appointment to the advisory
19 board. The MCN Steering Committee shall assess the nominees
20 and submit to the governor the names of qualified candidates for
21 appointment to the advisory board. The MCN Steering Com-
22 mittee shall include candidates who meet the criteria outlined in
23 this section and, in the opinion of the MCN Steering Committee,
24 are best able to fulfill the needs of the advisory board. The gov-
25 ernor shall make appointments to the advisory board from the list
26 of candidates submitted by the MCN Steering Committee.

27 The members of the advisory board shall represent the con-
28 tinuum of healthcare settings and services, including, but not lim-
29 ited to, long-term institutional care, acute care, community-based
30 care, and higher education in nursing. All members shall have a
31 demonstrated background in nursing and health services research.
32 Said advisory board shall elect a chair from among its members
33 and adopt bylaws for its proceedings. Members of said advisory
34 board shall be appointed for staggered terms of three years, except
35 for persons appointed to fill vacancies who shall serve for the
36 unexpired term. No advisory board member shall serve more than
37 two consecutive full terms.

38 Said advisory board shall advise the governor and the General
39 Court on matters related to the practice of nursing in the Com-
40 monwealth, including the shortage of nurses. Said advisory board
41 shall develop a research agenda and commission and fund
42 research projects to fulfill the agenda. Said advisory board shall
43 recommend policy initiatives to the General Court and the gov-
44 ernor. Said advisory board shall prepare and disseminate an
45 annual report to the governor, General Court, secretary of health
46 and human services, director of the department of labor and work-
47 force development and the commissioner of the department of
48 public health. The advisory board shall consider the use of cur-
49 rent government resources, including, but not limited to the work-
50 force training fund. The advisory board shall apply for federal
51 and private research grants. Such funds shall be deposited with
52 the state treasurer and may be expended by the advisory board in
53 accordance with the conditions of the grants, without specific
54 appropriation. The advisory board may expend for services and
55 other expenses any amounts that the general court may appro-
56 priate therefor. Said advisory board shall conduct at least one
57 public hearing during each year.